

REMARKS

The indication of the allowability of Claims 10, 11, 15-17 and 22 is noted with appreciation. Claims 10, 15 and 22 having been rewritten in proper independent form to include the limitation of the base and intervening claims, all these claims should now be allowed. In addition, the objection to Claims 3 and 4 has been addressed.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 12-14, 18-21 and 23-25 as being anticipated by Feygin et al. under 35 USC § 102(e) is traversed. Reconsideration of that rejection is requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Feygin et al. patent is not directed to a multi-station press and is thus totally inapposite to the present invention as set forth in the rejected claims. Although the Feygin et al. system employs a computer-directed concentrated energy beam 7 for cutting, fusing or causing physico-chemical property changes, the disclosed system teaches nothing about the use of such a beam during transport of the workpiece from or between press stations or while resting on a depositing device intermediate those stations. Nor does the Feygin et al. system or method deal with forming sheet metal workpieces. To the contrary, that patent involves the non-analogous manufacture of contoured laminated products using thin melttable sheet (i.e., non-metal) or powder-based materials. It is not concerned at all with metal working as is the present invention. It does not suggest tilting or otherwise manipulating the energy beam as is the case with the present invention (see amended Claims 12 and 13) where such tilting has been found necessary to machine or operate on curved metal surfaces.

Respectfully, the cited portions of the Feygin et al. specification referred to at page 3 of the Office Action do not support the Examiner's positions at least with regard to the amended claim language.

Accordingly, early and favorable action upon all the claims in this case is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #852/48374).

Respectfully submitted,

August 27, 2003



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